

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

BIG BEAR CREEK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

New Friendship Church, Franklin Co., Ala.

Commencing on Saturday before the second Sunday in
October, 1900.

OFFICERS:

ELD. J. S. STOCKTON, Moderator, Pleasant Site, Ala.
J. J. DILLARD, Clerk, Belgreen, Ala.

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

J. M. Thorn, Chairman, Burleson, Ala.
M. L. Counts, Secretary, Springvalley, Ala.
P. Hester, Frankfort, Ala.
W. M. Pace, Russellville, Ala.
J. C. Nelson, Belgreen, Ala.

*The next session of this Association will convene with
Bethlehem Church, Franklin Co., Alabama,
Saturday before the second Sunday
in October A. D. 1901.*

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory sermon at 11 o'clock a. m. Saturday.
2. The Moderator shall call the Association together by singing and prayer, and appoint reading clerks.
3. Read letters from the churches and enroll the delegates.
4. Elect officers.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Call for correspondence from other bodies.
7. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
8. Appoint committees, to wit: 1. On devotional exercises. 2. On documents. 3. On destitutions. 4. On finance. 5. On publications. 6. On sabbath schools. 7. On temperance. 8. On state of religion. 9. On missions. 10. On education. 11. On ministers institute work.
9. Report of standing committees.
10. Report of other committees in their order.
11. Report of executive board.
12. Miscellaneous business.
13. Elect place to hold next association.
14. Elect preacher to preach introductory sermon.
15. Read minutes, sing, pray and adjourn.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

With membership in Big Bear Creek Baptist Association.

NAME.	POSTOFFICE.	NO. CHURCHES PASTOR OF.
M J Pace	Russellville Ala	1
B H James	Russellville ..	3
S W Lee	Spruce Pine ..	
R A Gowder	Hackleburg ..	3
M W Daily	Avoca ..	
B G Harden	Fordton ..	
J S Stockton	Pleasant Site ..	3
A Smith	Barton ..	
W L Andrews	Tuscumbia ..	
J M Wright	Pleasant Site ..	1
N R E Johnson	Tuscumbia ..	
T H McDonald	Tuscumbia ..	
T D Newell	Philcampbell ..	
W H Camp	Tuscumbia ..	
J E Miller	Burleson ..	1
F M Jackson	Russellville ..	
W C Summers	Littleville ..	3
T M Johnson	Russellville ..	1
John N James	Belgreen ..	



The delegates composing the sixty-fifth annual session of The Big Bear Creek Baptist Association met with New Friendship Church, Franklin County Alabama, on Saturday before the second Sunday in October 1900.

In the absence of Eld. W. C. Summers, the annual sermon was preached by Eld. B. H. James, text: I Cor. 15-22; closed with prayer by Eld. R. A. Gowder, and then adjourned one and a half hours for dinner and rest.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After dinner the Association met at the time appointed, prayer by Eld. J. S. Stockton. The Moderator, Eld. W. C. Summers, being absent, Eld. J. S. Stockton was selected as temporary Moderator. Fletcher Reid and T. M. Johnson was appointed reading clerks and letters from the churches were read, and names of delegates enrolled as follows:

Evening Shade—Pink Hester, H F Taylor and W J Ponders.

New Friendship—W H Barber, W J Bragwell and J J Dillard.

Union—John Bohannan, Houston McKinney, J M Sparks and D M McKinney.

Bethlehem—J J Yocum, R H Long and J M Yocum.

Little Bear Creek No 2—J M Mitchell, Andy Harden and Chester Mitchell.

Burleson—W J Thorn, Robert Rea, J F Ledbetter and W H Thorn.

Liberty Hill—J P Taylor, W H Burfield and Howard Keplinger.

Crooked Oak—Arthur Grissom, W L Goodwin and Marion Hester.

Holly Springs—L D Overton.

Bethel—T J James, Wm Darrity, Wm Grissom and Joe Darrity.

Duncan Creek—A J Willis, L D Willis, L C Pace and L N Pace.

Pleasant Grove—R A Gowder.

Harmony—J H Riggs, J F Crowell and J A O Bolding.

Mt Moriah—M L Counts, Jack Allen and Nute Hand.

Mt Zion—W R Pace, B H James and D L McMickives.

By motion, the former order of business was adopted.

Election of officers resulted in the choice of Elder J. S. Stockton, Moderator, and J. J. Dillard Clerk.

Petitionary letters were called for, when a letter from New Union was presented, read and received; and the right hand of fellowship extended to the delegates by the Moderator. Bro. G. M. Warhurst was received as corresponding delegate from Shady Grove Association.

Committees were appointed as follows:

On Devotion: J M Sparks, J M Thorn and W J Lindsey.

On Documents: T M Johnson, H F Taylor and Pink Hester.

On Destitution: J M Thorn, Pink Hester and W R Pace.

On Finance: J M Yocum, J F Ledbetter and Robert Rea.

On Publications: B H James, R A Gowder and W H Barber.

On Sunday Schools: J A O Bolding, Arthur Grissom and L D Overton.

On Temperance: T M Johnson, J M Thorn and M L Counts.

On State of Religion: R A Gowder, J H Riggs and J N James.

On Missions: B H James, W J Bragwell and J W Allen.

On Education: J A O Bolding, M L Counts and J N James.

On Minister's Institute Work: J S Stockton, B H James and T M Johnson.

Report of the Committee on Devotion was received as follows:

Eld. J. S. Stockton to preach at 11 a. m. Sunday, and Eld. R. A. Gowder in the afternoon; Sunday School Mass Meeting at 9: 30 a. m. addresses by J. A. O. Bolding and T. M. Johnson.

Motion to adjourn prevailed, and after prayer the Association adjourned until 8 o'clock Monday.

SUNDAY'S DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.

At 11, a. m. Eld. J. S. Stockton preached a very edifying sermon on the subject of Missions; text, Matt. 28, 18-20, at the conclusion a collection for missionary purposes was taken to the amount of \$10.20.

After partaking of a good dinner, a large congregation listened to an excellent sermon by Eld. R. A. Gowder, text; Matt. 5, 13; theme: the power God has invested in his people when properly exercised.

MONDAY.

October 15, 1900. 8 o'clock.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment; prayer by Bro. I. J. Rogers, after which the Moderator called for detained letters, a letter from Duncan Creek church was presented, read and received. By motion, Wm. Vessels was received as a delegate from Newsom Springs church.

Devotional Committee reported Eld. B. H. James to preach at 11 a. m.

Report of Committee on Destitution adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Destitution make the following report: We find there is a destitution in the western portion of this association along the Mississippi line, also another on Cane Creek, and one in North East corner of this association, and one near LaGrange; we urgently recommend that the above destitutions be supplied early as possible.

Respectfully, J. M. Thorn, Ch'm.

Report of Committee on Documents adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Documents make the following report: We find that there are 16 churches represented by letter and delegates, we find 3 churches reporting Sunday Schools and prayer meetings, we also find 2 churches

asking for the next Association, viz: Bethlehem and Harmony, we further find one church asking for a letter of dismission, viz: Liberty Hill.

Respectfully, J. M. Thorn, Ch'm.

Report of Committee on Publications was read, and after considerable discussion was adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Publications report as follows: We insist that the Bible be read in our homes, and urge the brethren to furnish their children such "Bible Helps" as would advance them in the Bible; we recommend to the brethren "Bible Helps," published by the Southern Baptist Convention, at Nashville, Tenn., we further suggest the reading of "The Alabama Baptist," and "Foreign Mission Journals."

Respectfully, B. H. James, Ch'm.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools was received, and after being freely discussed, was adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, make the following report: The Sunday School work as reported by our church letters seems to be seriously neglected. Brethren, let us in the name of our blessed Master urge you to study the work of the Sunday School, and see if you can afford to neglect the spreading of the spiritual feast therein contained before your children, if not, arise in the name of Christ, and lead them to the Sunday School where they may be instructed in the truths of the blessed Bible.

Respectfully, J. A. O. Bolding, Ch'm.

On motion, the Association adjourned until 1 o'clock for preaching. We had a very interesting sermon by Eld. B. H. James, from Gen. 22-7. Theme: The great sacrifice.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by Moderator, after which the report of the Committee on Temperance was called for, which was received, and after some discussion, including a pledge by the brethren to abstain from the use of all intoxicating liquors as a beverage, was adopted as follows: We, your Committee on Temperance,

report as follows: We believe the church of Christ has been instrumental in the hands of God in putting down this great evil, although there is a great deal to be gained yet; we insist that the delegates of Big Bear Creek Association use every means in their power, to put down this great evil, and to hold strict discipline among their members.

Respectfully, M. L. Counts, Ch'm.

On motion, a letter of dismissal was granted to Liberty Hill church.

Report of Committee on State of Religion was received, and adopted as follows: We, your Committee on State of Religion report the following: The state of religion is at a very low ebb, we believe it is caused by neglect of our duty and we earnestly ask our brethren and sisters to discharge their whole duty, and we believe the state of religion will soon become better in our midst.

Respectfully, R. A. Gowder, Ch'm.

Report of Committee on Missions adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Missions report as follows: We are glad to note that Mission Work has been a success the past associational year in the hands of your Executive Board, and we feel assured that if the churches, and brethren and sisters will discharge their duty in this important work, that this Association will soon be able to fill all destitutions in its bounds, and we urge the brethren and sisters to contribute of their means, for the support of missions, and thus enable the Board to supply all destitutions. Let each church become a missionary body in deed and in truth.

Respectfully, B. H. James, Ch'm.

Report of Committee on Education adopted in connection with the report of the North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute, as follows: We, your Committee on Education make the following report: We believe education and religion to be the greatest boons to civilization, we therefore, recommend education in the pulpit, and in the pew, to lead us to happiness, morality and intellectuality.

Respectfully, J. A. O. Bolding, Ch'm.

REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TRINITY SCHOOL.
TO THE BIG BEAR CREEK ASSOCIATION:-

Dear brethren:

The Trustees of the North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute and Normal School would make their 8th annual report to your body. It will be remembered that we informed you in our last report that the school had been removed to Mountain View, near Trinity. The last session closed in May with an enrollment of 64. Our commencement exercises closed very creditably to both teachers and pupils. On the 14th of June last, the Trustees elected Rev. A. G. Sprisks as President of the school, Dr. Shackelford having declined a re-election; Prof. Sprisks accepted and public notice was given of this through the newspapers. The Trustees were very hopeful that the school would take on new life under the leadership of our new President elect, and that its patronage for the next session would be much larger.

Arrangements had been made with Dr. Shackelford to take the field, and work for pupils, and also raise money to erect another building, and to procure school appliances which were much needed, as all our Maps, Globes and Charts and other school helps, were burned at Danville with our house—he was appointed general agent for the school. On the 10th of September, just one week from the time the school was to commence its 9th session, the trustees met to receive the resignation of Prof. Sprisks, which had been handed to a member of the board a few days before that, the time was too short to look around for a teacher, and the board asked Dr. Shackelford if he would take the school. Realizing the situation, he agreed to do so, and the board agreed to help him, and do what they could for the school, no one has been out working for the school during the vacation, the result has been a small opening, we trust that the number of pupils will increase, and we confidently believe that it will. The trustees have been disappointed in the support which the baptist have given to this Institution. We are satisfied that we have a good school. Our teachers are first class. We have a most

healthy and accessible location; our rates of board and tuition are very moderate, why do not our baptist people patronize it? We have never had but one student from Bear Creek Association, we urge the ministers of your association to speak a word for the school, and send us some pupils. The board is gratified to inform your body that Colbert Association, at its last session, agreed to join us and co-operate with us in supporting the school, it appointed a member of the board of trustees. This board desires to get every association in North Alabama to co-operate with us and be represented on the board. This school was intended for the baptist of North Alabama and we want them to feel that it is their school, and they can exercise control over it, in the appointment of trustees. We trust your body will appoint trustees who will attend at least the annual meeting of the board. The time of two members of the board of trustees expires at this session, namely: B. H. James and ——— we do not know who the other is, because we have not been favored with a copy of your minutes for 2 years; the names we have on our catalogue is as follows: B. H. James, appointed in 1897-1900, I. J. Roggers 1897-1900, J. T. Bolding 1895-98, Rev. J. S. Stockton 1895-98, Dr. M. W. Daily 1896-99, Rev. J. R. NeSmith 1896-99; by our charter the trustees hold their office until their successors are appointed; will your body please fill vacancies at this session.

Respect. Sub'mtd.,

J. G. Orr, Pres.

Jos. Shackelford, Sec'y

Trinity, Oct. 1, 1900.

Former trustees of this school Elders J. S. Stockton and B. H. James were re-appointed.

The report of the committee on Minister's Institute Work as submitted at last associatin was adopted.

Burleson church extends the invitation to the Ministers to hold a session with them some time during the winter of 1900-1.

Motion, to strike out Nos. 9 and 10 in "order of business" prevailed.

Report of Committee on Finance was received and adopted as follows: We your committee on Finance make the following report:

Received for Minutes	\$11.65
Associational Missions	32.85
Individual Pledges	3.00
Public Collections	10.20

Total..... \$57.70

Respt. Submitted. J. M. Yocum, Ch'm.

Election of place to hold the next session of the association resulted in the choice of Bethlehem franklin Co., Alabama. Eld J. S. Stockton to preach the Annual sermon; Eld M. W. Daily, alternate.

Adjourned until 8:30 Tusday morning.

THIRD DAY.

Tuesday morning the Association met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by Eld. J. N. James.

On motion, the Moderator appointed the following members of the Executive Board: M. L. Counts, vice. J. M. Yocum; J. C. Nelson, vice. H. A. Malone.

On motion, the Clerk was allowed \$10.00 for his services.

Report of Executive Board adopted as follows:

We your Executive Board report the following:

On hand last report, \$52.79	Received from Finance	
Associational Missions 46.15	Com. for Minutes	\$11.65
Union meeting 1 Dis't. 1.15	Collection of Board	1.95
Colet'd. at Association 11.10		

Total..... \$124.79

Disbursements:

Paid R. A. Gowder	19.00	Paid Clerk for Minutes	\$11.65
" B. H. James	\$18.00	" " " Services	10.00

Total..... 58.65

Balance on hand.....\$66.14

The Union Meeting of the 1st. Dis. met with Mt. Zion Church; on Friday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1900; Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. John N. James.

The next Union of this District will be held with Duncan's Creek Church, Friday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1901; Eld. R. A. Gowder to preach the Introductory Sermon; Eld. G. B. Harden alternate.

B. H. James, Moderator; John N. Smith, Clerk.

The Union Meeting of the 2nd Dist. will be held with Evening Shade Church No. 1 on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in July 1901. Eld. M. W. Daily to preach the Introductory Sermon, Eld. P. T. Johnson, alternate.

A resolution was offered by Bro. J. M. Yocum, and after a very nice and pleasant talk by Bro. I. J. Roggers, was adopted as follows: Resolved—That we extend to New Friendship Church and vicinity, our heart-felt thanks for their kind hospitality shown us while in their midst.

J. M. Yocum.

A motion preveiled to appoint a Committee at the next session of this Association; on "Orphan's Home of Ala.," to report under order of Miscellaneous Business.

Brethren W. H. Barber, B. H. James and J. M. Yocum were appointed by the Moderator as a Committee to see after the welfare of diseased and disabled Ministers.

Devotional Committee reported Eld. R. A. Gowder to preach at 11 o'clock a. m.

CHURCH PLEDGES.

New Friendship....	\$5.25	Duncan's Creek.....	5.00
Burleson.....	5.00	Pleasant Grove.....	1.00
Bethlehem.....	5.00	Evening Shade.....	2.00
Crooked Oak.....	3.00	Harmony.....	3.00
Little Bear Creek 2...	2.00	Mt Moriah.....	3.00
New Union.....	1.00	Mt Zion.....	5.00
Union.....	1.00	Bethel.....	2.00

Total..... \$43.25

INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES FOR 1901.

G M Harrington	25	M L Counts	1 00
Miss Hattie Reid pd	25	J S Stockton	1 00
Jeffie Olliver	15	W H Barber	1 00
Jno W Duncan . . . pd	25	I J Roggers . . . pd..	1 05
Jno C Nelson pd	1 00	P. Hester	1 00
Geo W. Hargett.. pd	1 00	W R Pace pd..	1 00
J J Dillard	1 00	J M Yocum . . . pd..	1 00
A C Dempsey . . . pd	1 00	J W Allen	50
Master H Clouch pd	5	H F Taylor	1 00
“ Johnnie Dillard pd	5	B H James	1 00
“ Talmage Reid pd	5	J M Thorn pd..	1 00
Miss Susie Nelson pd	5	H C Oliver	50
“ Viola Bragwell pd	10	Guy Reid	50
W. J. Bragwell . . pd	30	Robt Rea pd..	35
Sam Ezzell pd	10	J M Mitchell	50
J F Ledbetter . . . pd	1 00	J A O Bolding pd..	1 00
F Reid pd	5	Mrs W H Barber . . .	25
C. H. Foot	1 00	G M Warhurst pd..	15
Total			<u>\$21 45</u>

INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES CARRIED OVER FROM LAST ASSOCIATION, UNPAID.

T M Johnson	\$ 1 00	W L Andrews	1 00
J M Wright	1 00	B G Harden	1 00
L D Willis	1 00		
Total	- - - - -		<u>\$ 5 00</u>

On motion of Bro. J. M. Thorn, The reading of the minutes was suspended. The association being through with business, after a short talk by our beloved Moderator, joined in singing a hymn and extended to each other the parting hand with much good feeling, and after a fervent prayer by Eld B. H. James, adjourned to meet with Bethlehem Church, Franklin Co. Ala., Saturday before the 2, Sunday in Oct. A. D. 1901. After adjournment the brethren and congregation were intertained and edified by a good sermon by Eld. R. A. Gowder, text; Rev. 21-9; theme: “Unity of Christ and the Church.”

J. J. Dillard, Clerk.

J. S. Stockton, Moderator.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT FOR YEAR 1900.

CHURCHES.	Missions.			Ministry	Pastor's Salary	Total.	Value of Property.
	Foreign	Associational.	Cash and voucher				
Burleson	\$	\$5 00		\$1 00		\$6 00	\$350 00
Bethlehem		4 00		1 00		5 00	50 00
Bethell		1 50		25		1 75	
Crooked Oak		3 00		1 10		4 10	
Duncan Creek		3 00		1 00		4 00	100 00
Evening Shade		2 00		65	20 00	22 65	
Holly Springs		1 00		50		1 50	
Harmony	2 50	2 50		1 00	50 00	56 00	500 00
Liberty Hill							200 00
Little Bear Cr'k 2				10		10	
Mt. Moriah		2 50		75		3 25	
Mt. Zion		2 50		1 00		3 50	100 00
New Friendship		5 00		1 25	50 00	56 25	200 00
Pleasant Grove		1 00		30		1 30	
Union				75		75	
New Union				25		25	
Newsom Springs				60			
Totals	2 50	33 00		11 50	120 00	166 40	1500 00

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1900.

CHURCHES.	PASPOIS.	CLERKS.	Post Office.	Increased				Decrease				SUNDAY SCHOOL.			
				Membership last Reported.	Baptism.	Letter. Voucher. Restoration.	By	Letter. Exclusion. Death.	By	Present Membership.	Officers and Teachers.	Pupils.	Superintendent's Name and Postoffice.	Preaching Sabbath. Reports Prayer Meeting. Reports Revival.	
Barleson	R A Gowder..	J R Thorn....	Barleson ...	140	1			62		133				210	
Bethlehem	I Bradford...	J M Yocum ..	Russellville	86	4	1		3	1	87				200	
Bethel	W Stauffeld ..	Billie Darity..	Tuscumbia	20						20				067	
Crooked Oak	W C Summers	A Grisson....	Russellville	137	5			211		138				100	
Duncan Creek	B H James ...	T J Willis....	Russellville	112	1			3		110				407	
Evening Shade	B H James ...	Jno W Rikard	Daily	77	2	1		3		77				000	
Holly Springs	R A Gowder..	J D Williams	Barleson ...							21				000	
Harmony	J S Stockton..	J T Bolding ..	Pleasant Site	62	2			2	1	61	840	H J Williams Pleasant Site		400	
Liberty Hill	W W Taylor	L M Taylor...	Travis	61	3	311		2	51	61				100	
Little BearCk 2	J M Mitchell	Fordton....							48				010	
Mt. Moriah	J R NeSmith	W M Willis ..	Springvalley	4018	35				1	65	450	Wm Coburn Springvalley		407	
Mt. Zion	B H James ...	J N Smith....	Russellville	63				2		61				100	
New Friendship	J S Stockton..	F Reid.....	Belgreen ...	63	6	4				73				307	
New Union	R A Gowder..	Wm Lindley..	Alanthus ..							22				000	
Pleasant Grove	R A Gowder..	T W Stoe	Hodges							22				000	
Union	J M Wright ..	D M McKinney	Underwood							25				000	
Totals				861	3519	6120	88	102	412	90				24	

